

**Town of Charleston  
Selectboard Meeting 09/27/18**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Selectboard was held September 27, 2018. Attending: Selectpersons Meghann Carter, Glenn Peterson, and Larry Young; Road Foreman Bernie Pepin; Newport Ambulance Board President Charlie Pronto; Newport Ambulance Retiring and incoming CEOs Mike Paradis and Jeff Johansen; Brighton Snowmobile Club representative Stacey Roesse; Landowners/Residents Margaret and Ivan Maxwell; Town Clerk Teri Gray; and Selectboard Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Motion by Mr. Peterson to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Carter and approved.

In courtesy to emergency response personnel present, new business was taken up first.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Pronto, Board President of Newport Ambulance, said their plan is to put a substation in Morgan near the Four Corners Store with 24/7 staff to serve Charleston, Brighton, Holland, Morgan, and provide backup for their Newport/Derby route. If out on a run, they would move a Newport crew into its place. Since taking on Charleston and several surrounding towns, NAS has added a crew and already parks a crew at the Morgan store during the day when possible. They expect Charleston's cost would increase \$9-10,000 from 2018 for this improved service. They hope to finalize the amount in October. Dispatching comes out of Newport, providing better local service than Williston. If NAS has to build a building, they would like a 5-year commitment from towns. Since this term is beyond Selectboard authority, Ms. Carter said the Selectboard could make a year commitment and bring the longer-term decision to voters at Town Meeting. She said the board has heard positive comments about NAS service, and Mr. Johansen complimented the quality response of Charleston Volunteer Fire Department.

Stacey Roesse of Brighton Snowmobile Club asked for Selectboard approval to use another 1000 ft of Hudson Rd for the trail, as landowner Jeff Roussell has asked not to use his field anymore. The Selectboard agreed to the request on the condition that the route be extremely well signed for safety, especially where it goes over a bridge. As a long-term plan, the club would like an alternate route that removes the trail from the highway, and they are looking at a route that starts at Jason Colburn's, through a couple paradise Lane properties, and through to the Town Forest. They are not looking for a firm commitment at this time, but would like to know if the Town would be willing to discuss it if they get permission from the other landowners. All board members agreed that they would be willing to hear the plan.

Motion by Ms. Carter to place a \$50 appropriation request by GreenUp Day on the Town Meeting Warning, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kellogg relayed a report from a resident about a chain across the Class IV section of Batchelder Rd with no trespassing signs. As this is a public road and the board has not given permission to gate it, chaining is not permitted. Ms. Carter asked Ms. Kellogg to draft a letter to the landowner requesting they remove the barrier or have it removed by the town.

Ivan Maxwell and Margaret Maxwell asked for clarification/correction of what they believe to be a factual error in a letter from the Selectboard to Mrs. Maxwell. The letter refers to deeded curb cuts to access homes on Mrs. Maxwell's property, but they do not believe this is written into any deed. Ms. Carter said the letter reflected the board's understanding, but that she would contact the Town Attorney to clarify and send an amended letter if needed. She also said the Selectboard was firm in maintaining non-involvement. Mr. Maxwell's also questioned points in the letter concerning snow removal, and said that Mrs. Maxwell's 12-foot access points were not "reasonable access" because they are not wide enough for even a fuel truck. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell complained that actions of neighboring landowner Mr. Davis are filling ditches and culverts, and that water is trapped on the so that runs the length of the road above the culvert. Mr. Pepin informed Mrs. Maxwell that maintenance is limited on the Class 4 section of the road. The Selectboard was however concerned about any damage being done to culverts and ditches and will consider documenting and billing for costs for repeated clean out.

#### ROAD REPORT

Mr. Pepin presented quotes for a heavier-duty 6-wheel dump truck to replace an aging 2009. Based on identical specifications, chassis prices are: Western Star \$118,240, Freightliner \$112,795, and International \$106,299. To add body and winter plow equipment, Viking is \$58,990 and HP Fairfield \$63,890. Mr. Pepin favors International due to price, earlier availability, and comprehensive extended warranty. For the body, he prefers Viking due to several superior details that would help the truck last longer, like the paint process. Mr. Young has also had a good experience with Viking being well built. Total price would be \$106,299 International chassis + \$58,990 Viking body and winter equipment + \$7,300 extended warranty - \$27,500 trade-in = \$145,089. Mr. Young suggests rolling the purchase into the existing equipment loan. There is enough paid down that the Town could draw \$20,000 from the equipment fund and finance the payoff plus new truck purchase for another 7 years and keep annual payments approximately the same. As the 7-year term requires voter approval and the truck purchase must happen soon to get in on a December build schedule, Ms. Carter made a motion to warn a special town meeting at 6:00 pm on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Town Clerk's Office lower level to ask voters to authorize financing, seconded by Mr. Young and approve. The Clerk will research loan payment and interest rate and prepare the Warning for posting by October 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to keep the process moving, Mr. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Pepin to contact Viking and International Dealer Clark's Trucking and go ahead with the truck order with the understanding that the Town cannot make a final commitment until voters approve the measure, seconded by Ms. Cater and approved.

In other Road Business, Mr. Pepin reported that winter sand is complete, and the crew now has some work to do on Great Falls Rd. The application period for FY2020 Better Roads grants is open and Mr. Pepin would like to focus on Ten Mile Square Rd from Route 105 to the Town Pit. The area needs serious ditching work, and with a grant the Town could do a more comprehensive job including replacing numerous undersized culverts and restoring the surface. Board members agreed that Mr. Pepin and Ms. Kellogg should proceed with grant applications for the October 26<sup>th</sup> deadline. Looking ahead to next summer, Mr. Pepin plans to finish Streeter Rd, replace culverts on Hudson in preparation for paving, and ditching on Hinton Hill Rd with Grants-in-Aid assistance.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kellogg reported that Building Energy approved the array fence design and is prepared to perform needed safety bonding. Ms. Carter moved to approve the Round Hill Fence quote of \$2,311.34, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved. The board asked the Clerk to contact Round Hill to establish a timeframe for installation. As this was the final cost associated with array installation, the board asked the treasurer to contact Community Bank in order to move ahead with 20-year financing for the solar project.

Bills and orders are approved for payment.

Under Announcements, Ms. Kellogg reminded board members that Ms. Carter and Ms. Kellogg are unable to attend the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Carter, and the meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Approved this 11th day of October 2018:

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Selectboard, Town of Charleston